

second egg lay in the entrance, and the female Redthroat flushed. As an experiment I returned both eggs to the nest, and was able to witness their expulsion within three minutes.

The young cuckoo appeared to roll an egg on to its shoulders where it was held between the raised wings and upthrust head. After a short pause the nestling turned its back to the entrance and by stretching its legs to the utmost was able to roll the egg over the rim of the entrance. At 2.30 p.m. I repeated the experiment but could not again stimulate the nestling cuckoo to throw the eggs out. To all appearances the impulse to perform this act had been lost.

IMMIGRATION OF THE INDIAN CROW TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

[Editor's note: In *The Birds of the Swan River District*, 1948, p. 18, D. L. Serventy has summarised the known records of the Indian or Ceylon Crow (*Corvus splendens*) being transported to Fremantle by ships from Colombo. See also *A Handbook of the Birds of Western Australia* by Serventy and Whittell, 1948, p. 339. In *The Emu*, vol. 49, 1949, p. 83 A. R. McGill refers to an additional record and speculates that "if we know, therefore, of eight instances of this bird's reaching Australia, it is safe to assume that on other occasions also it has completed its long 'pioneering' voyage and no record is known. The eventual history in their new land of most of these birds is unrecorded, but if birds of opposite sex eventually reach here about the same time and be not molested, the commencement of its status as an Australian breeding species is not altogether unlikely." At a meeting of the Western Australian branch of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union on January 26 and of the Western Australian Naturalists' Club on February 3 further instances of the introduction of the Indian Crow to Western Australia were reported and as the circumstances are of considerable instance, as compared with the previous records, they are published herewith.]

I

Captain J. L. Ruddiman, 62 Oakover Street, East Fremantle, writes: August 22, 1942: After leaving Cochin, on the west coast of India, I noticed that six common Carrion Crows were flying around the ship. It is a common occurrence for Crows to accompany ships, on which they have recently been feeding, to sea, but they usually return to land while it is near. As our route lay within quite a short distance of land for the first two days and the prevailing S.W. monsoon wind was favourable for their return journey, I was surprised to find that all six birds were still with us when we were well out into the South Indian Ocean.

During the passage one bird built a nest of rope yarns and bits of cotton waste in an open shelter deck alongside the engine room, where coal trimmers were working within a few feet of it. The others took up residence in the cab of a motor truck which

was on the open deck. They flew low around the ship during the daytime, never going far outside the ship's limits. I think this cautious behaviour was necessary because we encountered strong head winds, 6-7 force, during most of the passage. The Indian crew fed them on scraps of foodstuffs and the birds appeared to be in their usual vigorous health.

September 5: The Crows were last seen in one of the open sheds on North Wharf, Fremantle, squawking loudly as if glad to be on land again.

II

Mr. Angus Robinson, "Yanjetee," Coolup, writes: On May 22, 1945 Mr. R. T. Jenkins informed me that there was a strange bird on the farm of one of my neighbours (Mr. H. T. Styles). He said he had not seen a similar bird in Australia but it had a strong resemblance to the English Jackdaw, with which he was quite familiar.

About 10 a.m. I went over to see this strange bird and heard its unfamiliar call from a considerable distance before I got there. I saw Mrs. Styles and she gave me the following information. It was first seen on the morning of May 21 when it made its appearance in the wash-house in a very wet condition and took a crust of bread. It was very quiet and could be caught. It appeared to have a patch on the back of the neck caused by feathers being matted. The back of the neck was brown in colour. The bird remained around the house and the milking shed.

I went over and examined the bird which was quite well-groomed but could not be caught as it remained in the tree. It was very quiet and allowed one to approach it. From notes I took at the time I give the following description. It was about half the size of a Raven (*Corvus coronoides*). The forehead, chin, throat, around the eyes and base of the beak were shiny blue-black or purplish-black. The wings were similar but the tail was more of a dull black. The rest of the body was a uniform brownish-grey. The bill was dark grey and the upper mandible hooked. Feet black. Eye dark. It had a monotonous call heard at some distance and similar to the harsh cry of the Silver Gull. It also made a squeaky noise quite unlike the other call. This was only uttered once or twice. The throat was distended when calling.

It was continuously pecking at gum leaves or pine needles in the tree in which it was perched. When a Raven called from a nearby tree it became silent and later roosted on a branch in a shady tree with its legs doubled up and body resting on the branch, but was heard calling from 200-300 yards away 30 minutes later.

I asked Mr. Styles to catch it at the first opportunity but it disappeared soon after. As the Magpies and Ravens both gave it a bad time I decided that they had probably killed it. I dismissed it at the time as a pet Jackdaw flown in from some ship off the coast. It appears, however, to have been an Indian Crow.